

Comment on the Digital Millenium Copyright Act

As a voting citizen of the United States, I am dismayed by the intent of the DMCA. I expect that when I spend my hard earned money on a book, a movie, or even computer software, that I can do whatever I want with that item in my home that does not involve giving away copies of the work I have purchased. If I want to pull apart a copy of “Moby Dick” and tell others to do the same, then that is my prerogative. If I want to transcribe it and keep a separate copy in a vault in case the original was burned, that is my right.

Yet the DMCA essentially makes it illegal for an individual to pull apart their electronic possessions and examine them. Under this kind of thinking, if I am sold a box with a beautiful work of art inside, yet it is only accessible to me by turning numbers on a lock on the box, I have every right to apply a screwdriver to that lock and pry it off, revealing the art that I have paid to possess. Well, the DMCA would make this illegal. I object.

There is no private individual in this country who will benefit from the DMCA. Artists and authors have not asked for this law. The Recording industry uses scare tactics to suggest that the DMCA will give them the teeth to stop the “crippling” effects of piracy. Yet this year the RIAA posted enormous profit growth. I urge you to listen to the citizens that oppose this law and ignore the corporate entity – an entity that has no voting rights.

Respectfully Submitted,

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